I THOUGHT FOR SURE THINGS WOULD GO WELL THIS TIME, BUT...

BUT, I WILL NEVER FORGET,

YOU PEOPLE WHO KILLED MY PRECIOUS FRIENDS.

IN ORDER TO SURVIVE,
I WILL FOLLOW MY FRIENDS INTO
THE NEXT WORLD OF JUNE, 1983.

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RIIING

I AM FURUDE RIKA. THIS IS HINAMIZAWA VILLAGE AND, AT THE HEART OF IT, PASSED DOWN, IS A BELIEF IN OYASHIRO-SAMA. I AM THE SOLE MIKO OF FURUDE SHRINE SAID TO BE OYASHIRO-SAMA'S REINCARNATION.

IT'S STILL THE BEGINNING OF SUMMER, 1983, RIGHT .....?

RIKA.

IT'S THAT TIME AGAIN. UNTIL THE NEXT ONE COMES, LET'S SPEND IT HAVING FUN, NANODESU.

WILL YOU SHUT UP!?

AND SHE'S OYASHIRO-SAMA. HER ACTUAL NAME IS HANYUU. NO ONE ELSE BUT ME CAN SENSE HER PRESENCE.

SFX: AUAUAUAU.

.....

WHAT DAY IS IT TODAY?

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IT'S THE DAY BEFORE WATA-NAGASHI ALREADY...?!

OH NO.

IT'S JUNE, 19TH... 1983, NANODESU...

UNTIL NOW, I'VE BEEN HELPLESSLY EXPERIENCING COUNTLESS DAYS OVER AND OVER AGAIN IN THIS WORLD. HOWEVER, IT'S STARTING TO BECOME INCREASINGLY IRREVERS-IBLE.

AND IT'S ALL BECAUSE OF THE LOCAL DISEASE WHICH RUNS RAMPANT HERE.....

HINAMIZAWA SYNDROME.

.....!

IT'S VERY LIKELY THAT THOSE CHOICES WILL BE MADE AGAIN NOW.

FALLING INTO PARANOIA IS WHAT CAUSES THE ONSET. SORROW, DOUBT, PAIN, UNABLE TO EVEN TRUST YOUR OWN FRIENDS. LOSING THEIR WAY AND, TO THIS DAY, MAKING THE WRONG CHOICES.

ALTHOUGH THE DEVELOPING SYMPTOMS FOR EACH PERSON ARE DIFFERENT,

HOWEVER, THE LAST WORLD WAS SPECIAL. BY ELIMINATING ALL THE FACTORS WHICH LEAD TO THE TRAGEDY,

WE WERE ABLE TO CELEBRATE WATANAGASHI.

BECAUSE OF THAT, EVERYONE WAS ABLE TO CELEBRATE WATANAGASHI WITHOUT AN OUTBREAK.

HOWEVER, LAST TIME, WE ALL UNITED AROUND KEIICHI AND SUCCEEDED IN SAVING SATOKO.

UNTIL NOW, THE PATTERN HAS BEEN THAT, IN ORDER TO SAVE SATOKO FROM AN ONSET, SOMEONE WOULD RUSH INTO MURDERING HIM. THAT THAT MAN MIGHT ALSO DEVELOP SYMPTOMS, TOO, WAS SUPPOSED TO BE THE WORST-CASE SCENARIO.

IN THE LAST WORLD, SATOKO'S UNCLE, TEPPEI, CAME BACK.

DAMN IT... I'VE FORGOT-TEN!!

I SHOULD HAVE SEEN THE IDEN-TITY OF THE ONE BE-HIND ALL THE INCI-DENTS TAK-ING PLACE IN HIN-AM-IZA-WA!

... AND YET!

WHY?

I THOUGHT THAT WORLD WAS PER-FECT... AND YET I STILL DIED.

WHAT HAP-PENED AFTER THE WA-TANA-GASHI FES-TIVAL ?

RIKA..... WE STILL HAVE NEXT TIME...

NEXT TIME ?!

THE MORE WE TURN BACK TIME, THE SHORTER THE NEXT ONE BECOMES !!

WILL THE NEXT WORLD BE JUST BEFORE I DIE!?

GET KILLED, GO BACK, GET KILLED AGAIN.

HOW MANY DAMN TIMES MUST IT BE REPEATED!?

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... DAMN IT...

RIKA, WH-WHAT'S WRONG!?

SFX: NIPA

ANYWAYS, YOU SHOULD GET UP SOON OR WE'LL BE LATE.

IS THAT SO? IT MUST HAVE BEEN QUITE A SCARY ONE, HUH?

IT IS NOTHING, NANO-DESU. I JUST HAD A SCARY DREAM.

IF YOU DON'T HURRY AND GET UP, ALL THE MEAT IN YOUR BENTO WILL BE MINE.

ON THIS DAY, SATOKO IS HERE. SO THAT MEANS, IN THIS WORLD, TEPPEI HASN'T MADE AN APPEAR-ANCE.

ON THIS DAY I HAVE COME TO, SATOKO'S SPIRIT ISN'T BROKEN ..... O

RIKA
.....

IT'S TOO SOON TO GIVE UP, HANYUU.

IT WON'T DO FOR MY HEART TO GET WORRIED SO QUICKLY OVER MY FRIENDS... STILL, I WONDER HOW LONG UNTIL IT CEASES TO BE THE HEART OF A PERSON WHO HAS LIVED MORE THAN A 100 YEARS?

KEIICHI SHOWED ME IN THE PREVIOUS WORLD.

THIS WORLD WHERE EVEN SATOKO IS LAUGHING IS ONE THAT SHOULD NOT BE ABAN-DONED.

'FATE IS EASIER TO BREAK THAN A GOLDFISH NET'.....!

I WAS THINKING 'WHAT SHOULD I DO? THIS IS THE FIRST TIME WE'VE HAD ONLY A SINGLE DAY', BUT I'D FORGOTTEN SOMETHING IMPORTANT!

RIKA, YOUR BENTO IS READY.

I WON'T DESPAIR ANYMORE.

I'LL BELIEVE THAT, WHATEVER THE CIRCUMSTANCE MAY BE, A MIRACLE IS SURE TO OCCUR.

GEEZ. EVEN THOUGH IT'S SATURDAY, MION-SAN SUGGESTED WE HAVE A HARD CLUB ACTIVITY.

I'M GLAD .....

BUT...

SINCE SHE'S PROBABLY PLANNING TO TRY AND CHEER US ALL UP

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SFX: BLANK LOOK

...SATOKO, HAS SOMETHING HAPPENED?

WE WERE ALL SO WORRIED. OOHOHO HOHO.

OOHO HOHO.

YES. IT'S NOT THAT BIG A DEAL AT ALL. IT WAS ONLY A TRIVIAL INCIDENT, BUT,

BUT, FROM MY EXPERIENCES SO FAR, CLUB ACTIVITIES DON'T USUALLY TAKE PLACE WHEN ALL THE MEMBERS AREN'T PRESENT.

I'D BETTER NOT SAY ANYTHING CARELESS UNTIL I'VE FIGURED OUT THE CURRENT SITUA-TION.

I DON'T QUITE UN-DER-STAND...

PERHAPS NO ONE HAS BEEN SEIZED BY PARANOIA .....

PERHAPS IN THIS WORLD...

UNTIL NOW, THERE HAVE BEEN SEV-ERAL WORLDS WHERE KEIICHI IS ABSENT THE DAY, BEFORE WATAN-AGASHI.

AND, IN THEM, KEIICHI WAS SEIZED IN A WORLD OF PARA-NOIA...

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...KEIICHI. ..HASN'T ARRIVED...

I NEED INFOR-MATION ABOUT THIS WORLD.

THAT HASN'T EVER BEEN THE CASE IN THE PREVI-OUS WORLDS, BUT THAT'S NOT TO SAY IT'S IMPOS-SIBLE.

BUT,

HE COULD'VE OVER-SLEPT AND IS LATE, OR HAS CAUGHT A COLD?

IT SEEMS SHE WANTS TO TELL ME 'IT'S NO USE'.

THAT'S A RELIEF. IF THAT BUMP HAD REMAINED ON YOUR FACE ANY MORE THAN IT DID, YOU'D NO LONGER BE ABLE TO GET A MAN TO MARRY YOU, AM I RIGHT?

OHOHO HOHO. THAT WAS JUST A LITTLE MOSQUITO BITE.

OH, SATOKO-CHAN, THE SWELLING ON YOUR FACE IS COMPLETELY UNNOTICE-ABLE NOW, HUH?

BUT, SERI-OUSLY, SATO-KO,

IT LOOKS LIKE YOUR UNCLE WON'T BE COMING OUT FOR AWHILE.

EH...?

YEAH. IT'S BECAUSE OTHER CRIMES HAVE COME OUT. AND WHAT'S MORE, IT WAS REVEALED DURING ALL THIS THAT HE'S EVEN BEEN DOING STUFF TO MAKE ENEMIES OF THE SONOZAKI FAMILY. SO, EVEN IF IT SEEMS LIKE HE'S GOING TO BE RELEASED FROM PRISON,HE WON'T BE SHOWING HIS FACE AROUND HERE.

MII-CHAN, DOES THAT MEAN SATOKO-CHAN IS...?

HUH... IS THAT SO?

O.....OO HOHOHO. SERVES HIM RIGHT! EVIL ALWAYS LOSES.

TEPPEI... CAME BACK...

I=IDO NIPA

JUST AS I THOUGHT, KEIICHI IS AMAZING, DESU.

HUH? KEI... ICHI? WHO'S THAT?

IF THAT'S THE CASE, THEN GOOD! THIS TIME FOR SURE I WILL BREAK FATE!

EVERYONE WAS RALLIED BY KEIICHI AND JOINED FORCES TO RESCUE SATOKO. THAT WORLD IS AWAKENING MIRACLES ONE AFTER THE OTHER.

AND HE'S ALREADY BEEN ELIMI-NATED! THIS WORLD IS JUST LIKE THE ONE I WAS IN A SHORT WHILE AGO.

IT CAN'T BE... NO, IT'S IM-POSSIBLE.

KEIICHI? I DON'T SEEM TO KNOW HIM?

I DON'T KNOW HIM, EITHER.

TILL NOW, I'VE ONLY ENCOUNTERED 'THAT WORLD' A FEW TIMES.

RENA, SATOKO, DO YOU KNOW ANYONE CALLED KEIICHI?

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CLASS IS NOW IN SESSION.

MY SAVIOUR WHO CAN BREAK THROUGH FATE DOES NOT EXIST .....

WITHOUT KEIICHI, A MIRACLE WON'T OCCUR AND ALTER THE FATE OF MY DEATH.

KEI-ICHI DOES NOT EXIST IN THIS WORLD

...

HELLO.

I SNUCK OUT IN THE MIDDLE OF A LESSON TO COME BY.

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THIS WORLD IS AL-READY OVER……

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FINE BY ME. AFTER ALL, I KNOW THE ROPES FAR BETTER THAN YOU, ONEE.

I DON'T GET YOU, YOU MAY HAVE TO REPEAT A YEAR.

HER USE OF CUNNING WAS HER STRONG POINT. IT LOOKS LIKE SHE GOADED TEPPEI INTO MAKING A NUISANCE OF HIMSELF TO THE POLICE.

...IT APPEARS THAT IN THIS WORLD, SHION SAVED SATOKO.

OO-HOHOHO, NATURALLY! YOU WERE REMARKABLY CUNNING WHEN YOU TRICKED MY NOTORIOUS UNCLE.

あはははは…… AHAHAHAHAHA…

THOUGH SHION OFTEN KEEPS CALM IN THOSE KIND OF SITUATIONS, DON'T YOOOOU? IF IT WAS THE OLD DAYS, YOU'D HAVE GIVEN INTO YOUR ANGER AND BEATEN THE GUY TO DEATH. ALL THE SAME, PLEASE DON'T GO OFF AND DO ANYTHING LIKE THAT.

YOU'RE ALWAYS SO CRUEL TO ME, ONEE. I'M NOT A KID.

HOW-EVER .....

IN THE WORLDS I'VE EXPERI-ENCED UNTIL NOW, SHION, LEFT TO HER OWN RAGE, KILLED TEPPEI.

AND YET, THIS TIME

...WHY....?

...JUST KIDDING!

TO TELL YOU THE TRUTH...WHEN THE SITUATION WITH SATOKO FIRST STARTED AND I HEARD ABOUT THAT UNCLE OF HERS, I DID CONSIDER KILLING HIM.

CALLING THE UNCLE, AND BY SATOSHI-KUN'S OWN BAT. ...I'D EVEN KILL HIM IN 1500 SECONDS.

BY REMEM-BERING THOSE WORDS, I WAS ABLE TO TALK MYSELF OUT OF IT.....

'EVEN IF YOU DO SUCH A THING, YOU WON'T GET THE WORLD YOU TRULY WISHED FOR. DON'T MAKE A MISTAKE THAT CANNOT BE UNDONE.'

THE WORDS KEIICHI SAID IN THE PREVIOUS WORLD ...?

THOSE ARE...

.....BUT YOU KNOW, AS I WAS THINKING ABOUT HOW TO KILL HIM, I REMEMBERED THE WORDS SOMEONE SAID TO ME AGES BACK.

I THOUGHT I HAD NO CHOICE BUT TO KILL HER.

ACTUALLY...AT MY HOUSE A WHILE AGO...MY DAD GOT SCAMMED BY THIS EVIL WOMAN.

I UNDER-STAND, SHII-CHAN... RENA ALSO HAD A SIMILAR EX-PERIENCE.

YOU THINK THERE'S NOTHING ELSE YOU CAN DO. YOU THINK YOU'RE ALONE. YOU'RE AT YOUR LIMIT. SO LET'S ALL TEAM UP."

ERM...'EVEN IF YOU THINK THERE'S NO OTHER WAY, KILLING IS NEVER THE ANSWER.

WHAT WORDS DID YOU REMEM-BER, RENA-SAN?

DON'T TELL ME EVEN RENA ...?

BUT YOU KNOW, THEN I REMEMBERED THE WORDS MII-CHAN SAID TO ME WHEN I TALKED IT OVER WITH HER.

WHEN I REMEMBERED THOSE WORDS, I SUDDENLY GOT A WARM FEELING IN MY CHEST.

TALKING IT THROUGH WITH MII-CHAN GAVE ME COURAGE.

IT'S NOT LIKE MY FRIENDS ARE BEING LED ASTRAY LIKE THEY USUALLY ARE WITH EVERY TRAGEDY. THEY'VE REALISED THEIR MISTAKES AND TAKEN THEM TO HEART, HAVEN'T THEY?

KEI-ICHI EX-IS-TS!'

I... WAS WRONG, ...

KEIICHI DOESN'T EXIST IN THE WORLD, BUT HE EXISTS AT THE HEART OF IT.

THEY MUST HAVE REAL-ISED THIS IN THE PREVI-OUS WORLD.

A MIRACLE WAS BROUGHT ABOUT BECAUSE EVERY-ONE JOINED FORCES.

ALTHOUGH I LIKE TO SAY THAT I'M CONFIDENT IN FIGHTING BACK AND OVERCOMING THE ODDS, I DIDN'T CONSIDER THAT, ULTIMATELY, I WAS ONLY RELYING ON KEIICHI.

カラン…

AND THAT

I ALSO HAVE SOMETHING ... I WANT ALL OF YOU TO HEAR, DESU.

A RESULT THAT WAS OBTAINED JUST BY SIMPLY 'TRUST-ING THEIR FRI-ENDS'.

...SO THAT IS WHY, IN A FEW DAYS FROM NOW, I WILL BE KILLED, DESU.

IN ORDER TO PREVENT AN OUTBREAK OF HINAMIZAWA SYNDROME, AND FOR THE SAKE OF THE SYSTEM THAT IS THE LEGEND OF OYASHIRO-SAMA, AS WELL AS FURUDE RIKA WHO'S THE QUEEN CARRIER, THE IRIE CLINIC, ALSO SERVES AS RESEARCH FACILITY. AS WELL AS THIS, TOMITAKE AND TAKANO ARE ALSO INVOLVED, AND, ON THE NIGHT OF THE WATANAGASHI FESTIVAL, THE TWO OF THEM ARE KILLED BY SOMEONE. FURUDE RIKA'S LIFE IS ALSO CONTINUALLY SNATCHED AWAY. I EXPLAINED THIS TO THEM BY USING THE CONVENIENT TERM 'CLAIRVOYANCE'... HOWEVER, I STILL DIDN'T TOUCH UPON HOW I'VE REPEATED THIS WORLD AND HANYUU'S EXISTENCE...

HEY, ONEE. PLEASE DON'T MAKE FUN OF RIKA-CHAMA. TAKE WHAT SHE'S SAYING SERIOUSLY, OKAY?

RIKA-CHAN... ARE YOU SETTING UP A NEW GAME OR SOMETHING? I HAVEN'T CHECKED.

UNTIL NOW I HAVE STAYED SILENT. I AM SORRY, NANODESU...

AS EXPECTED, THEY DON'T FIND THE MATTER AT HAND BELIEVABLE JUST YET.

I WON'T FORGIVE YOU.

BUT...

I WON'T FORGIVE THAT YOU KEPT IT A SECRET EVEN FROM ME.

SATOKO...

DO YOU... BE-LIEVE ME?

I'VE BEING BESIDE YOU THIS WHOLE TIME...BUT I NEVER NOTICED. I'M SORRY.

BUT, IF THE STORY'S TRUE, THEN ISN'T IT KINDA WEIRD THAT RIKA-CHAN'S LIFE IS BEING TARGETED?

THAT IS RIGHT, DESU. I AM THE TRUMP CARD, NANO-DESU.

IF RIKA-CHAN'S THE QUEEN CARRIER AND GETS KILLED, THEN DOES THAT MEAN THE VILLAGERS WILL DEVELOP HINAMIZAWA SYNDROME ALL AT ONCE?

OH, BUT THAT DOESN'T MEAN I DON'T BELIEVE YOU, RIKA!

YOUR STORY IS SO CRAZY, I STILL DON'T QUITE BELIEVE IT...

THEY'RE TRYING TO FIGURE OUT A WAY TO BELIEVE IN THE PREMISE OF SUCH A CRAZY STORY...

IF THERE ARE OTHERS WHO'RE TRYING TO CAUSE A DISASTER, THEN IT'S NOT THAT UNLIKELY A STORY.

BECAUSE YOU'RE THE 'TRUMP CARD'...DOES THAT MEAN, DEPENDING ON THE OBJECTIVE, YOU CAN ALSO BECOME 'THE JOKER' ...?

YOU'RE LYING!

HO... HOLD ON,

RENA...

I KNOW WHAT'S GOING ON HERE! RIKA-CHAN'S DENYING OYA-SHIRO-SAMA'S EXIS-TENCE!!

AHAHAHA HAHAHA! WHAT? MII-CHAN, SHII-CHAN, YOU BELIEVE SUCH A STORY? AND YOU CALL YOURSELVES MEMBERS OF THE THREE GREAT HOUSES!

RENA.....I HAVE KEPT SILENT UNTIL NOW. I AM SORRY, NANODESU..

BUT IT IS THE TRUTH, NANO DESU.

RIKA-CHAN, YOU'RE THE MIKO !!

THE MIKO CAN'T DENY OYA-SHIRO-SAMA. THAT WOULD BRING ABOUT A CURSE!

...YOU MUST NOT DENY... OYA-SHIRO-SAMA!

I DON'T BELIEVE YOU. I DON'T BELIEVE YOU!

I WON'T BE-LIEVE YOU !!

YEEEEAH... WHEN IT COMES TO OYASHIRO-SAMA, RENA TENDS TO LOSE HER COOL...

RENA ...!

I BELIEVE THAT SHE'LL COME TO ACCEPT THE TRUTH.

BREAKS AWAY FROM THE SPELL OF OYA-SHIRO-SAMA,

BUT, IF THE RENA OF THIS WORLD

...I UNDER-STAND HER BLIND BELIEF IN OYA-SHIRO-SAMA.

THAT'S FINE. SHE MIGHT NOT BELIEVE ME RIGHT AWAY, HOW-EVER I HAVE FAITH IN RENA.

MIXED EXPRES-SIONS...

THANK YOU FOR LISTENING TO THE END, NANO DESU.

WHETHER OR NOT YOU BELIEVE ME, I WILL LEAVE IT UP TO ALL OF YOU, DESU.

IF YOU BELIEVE ME, THEN I WANT YOU TO COME TO THE BACK OF THE SAIGUDEN, AFTER WATANAGASHI, AND HELP ME, DESU.

I THINK I WILL TRY TO PREVENT TOMITAKE AND TAKANO'S DEATHS FROM HAPPENING TOMORROW ON THE NIGHT OF WATA-NAGASHI.

FROM THE LOOKS ON THEIR FACES, THEY DON'T DOUBT ME, BUT THERE'S ALSO A HESITATION TO BELIEVE IT ALL.

SO WE'RE INCLUDING SHION-SAN IN THE 'CLASH OF THE FIVE PLAGUES', ARE WE? I WON'T LOSE!

I KNOW, RIGHT? EVEN I'M GOING TO PARTICI-PATE THIS YEAR.

TH-THAT'S... RIKA-CHAN, HOW CAN YOU SAY SUCH AN EASY-GOING THING?

SFX: NIPA

SO,

UNTIL THE FESTIVAL TOMOR-ROW, WHAT SHALL WE PLAY?

IT'S SO ENCOUR-AGING THAT I WAS ABLE TO CONFESS HALF THIS MUCH TO THEM.

NEVER-THE-LESS,

EVEN IF THEY BELIEVED ME, THERE'S NO GUARAN-TEE THAT FATE CAN BE BRO-KEN.

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MIIII. I WILL BE FINE. I HOPE YOUR NEE-NEE SPOILS YOU ROTTEN, DESU.

AH, RIKA, I'LL BE AT NEE-NEE'S TONIGHT ...

I'LL BE STAYING AT SHION'S HOUSE. DO YOU THINK YOU'LL BE OK ON YOUR OWN, RIKA?

I FEEL... A LITTLE BIT LONELY ...

IN THIS WORLD, SATOKO REFERS TO SHION AS NEE-NEE.

...I-I DON'T CALL HER NEE-NEE. COME ON, LET'S GO! HURRY UP! NEE-NEE- ...I MEAN SHION-SAN!

WHERE HAVE YOU BEEN?

YOU'RE LIKE A MOTHER TO SATOKO, RIKA, NANO DESU.

I'M JUST LIKE A PARENT WHO'S JEALOUS OF THEIR DAUGHTER'S LOVER, AREN'T I?

ひょー

YOU'RE WRONG... IT'S A DIFFER-ENT PERSON, NANO DESU.

IT'S...A PERSON WHO IS VERY FAR AWAY .....

AU... THERE WAS A PERSON WHO HAD AN OUTBREAK, SO I WANTED TO APOLOGIZE TO THEM...

OUT-BREAK!? COULD IT BE RENA?

THERE ARE STILL THINGS I HAVE TO DO.

NOW IS NOT THE TIME.

LET'S GO HOME, HANYUU.

FAR AWAY...? ..... WHO ON EARTH IS IT...?

YES, THIS IS OKIN-OMIYA POLICE STATION.

PLEASE PASS ME OVER TO OISHI.

HELLO.

Kataribanashi-hen - Minaaishi-hen P1
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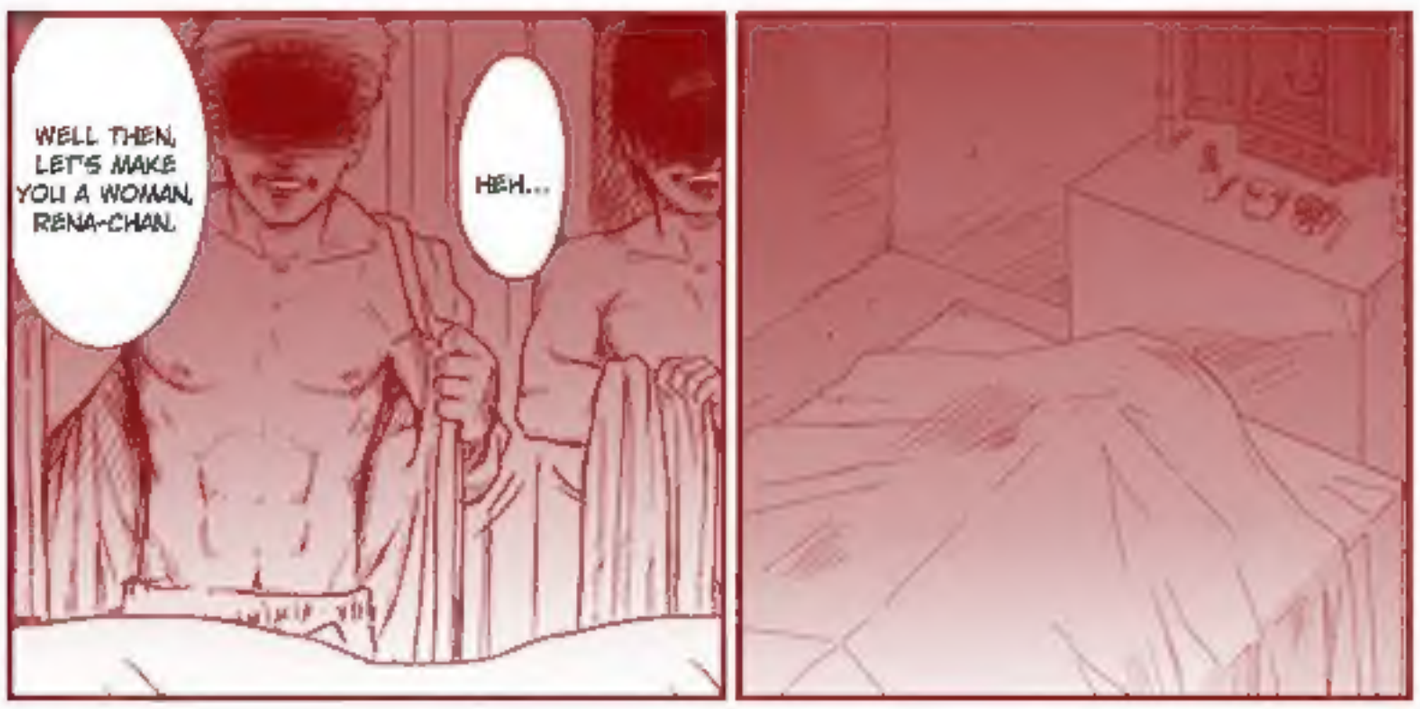

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